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# CITRUS

## MATURITY TEST RESULTS

September 12, 2002

The results of the first early-midseason orange and grapefruit maturity tests of the 2002-03 season are listed below. Samples representing all five areas of the Florida citrus belt were picked September 3-4 and tested in the Orlando maturity testing laboratory September 5-6, 2002. Generally, all fruit tested was regular bloom type as there are only small quantities of late bloom fruit this season. Almost three-fourths of the grapefruit sample groves are located in the Indian River District, while most of the orange sample groves are from the other four areas. Sample groves and trees remain relatively constant from one season to the next.

This season's bloom was generally normal and somewhat like the bloom of last year. Light and scattered rains during the spring were helpful during the fruit setting period. The major summer rains started early in June and continued through early September. Above average rainfall occurred during June, July, and August. A tremendous amount of new growth has appeared on trees of all ages in virtually all well cared for groves.

The acid levels for all types of fruit tested are the lowest since the September maturity tests began in the 1997-98 season. The pounds of unfinished juice per box and pounds solids per box are the highest for any September tests. The heavy summer rains helped produce better than average juice per box for all types tested. The percent soluble solids or Brix are just about average for this testing period.

Most groves have average to surplus moisture levels. Some growers have been pumping water out of the ditches and canals. A few caretakers with bedded groves have ditched their main middles to remove standing water away from the trees' roots. Tristeza, sand hill decline or YTD, and root weevil decline have all combined to severely weaken or kill a lot of citrus trees this year. Many sick and weak groves have been abandoned due to lack of sufficient foliage and fruit.

The table on page 2 of this report separates the Indian River District from the other areas of the state for the 2002-03 season. The next Maturity Test Results will be published with the October 11, 2002 citrus forecast at 8:30 a.m.

**MATURITY AND YIELD TEST RESULTS:** Unadjusted averages for regular bloom fruit from sample groves for crop years 1998-99 through 2002-03

Type of fruit crop year	Sample groves	Acid	Soluble solids	Ratio	Juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent			Pounds	
<b>Early Oranges</b>						
September 1						
1998-99	120	1.72	9.52	5.68	42.14	4.01
1999-00	120	1.73	9.35	5.53	41.09	3.83
2000-01	120	1.63	9.78	6.11	42.44	4.14
2001-02	120	1.37	9.64	7.22	43.16	4.16
2002-03	120	1.29	9.41	7.46	45.30	4.26
<b>Midseason Oranges</b>						
September 1						
1998-99	55	1.94	9.41	4.96	42.51	4.00
1999-00	55	1.99	9.13	4.69	39.47	3.60
2000-01	55	1.77	9.32	5.35	44.22	4.13
2001-02	55	1.58	9.37	6.03	42.87	4.02
2002-03	55	1.42	9.03	6.46	45.90	4.14
<b>White Seedless Grapefruit</b>						
September 1						
1998-99	50	1.80	10.08	5.62	30.83	3.10
1999-00	50	1.83	10.24	5.61	29.15	2.97
2000-01	50	1.82	10.14	5.58	32.47	3.29
2001-02	50	1.65	9.80	5.95	33.93	3.32
2002-03	49	1.56	9.69	6.24	34.63	3.36
<b>Colored Seedless Grapefruit</b>						
September 1						
1998-99	50	1.78	9.94	5.60	31.75	3.15
1999-00	50	1.75	10.07	5.79	29.02	2.92
2000-01	50	1.76	10.36	5.91	33.45	3.47
2001-02	50	1.64	10.03	6.13	34.68	3.48
2002-03	50	1.54	10.14	6.63	36.12	3.66

**MATURITY TEST RESULTS: Averages by areas, 2002-03 season, September 1, 2002**

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
<b>ORANGES:</b>						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	11	1.37	9.70	7.15	46.66	4.52
Other Areas	109	1.28	9.38	7.49	45.17	4.24
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	12	1.45	9.22	6.41	46.52	4.28
Other Areas	43	1.41	8.97	6.48	45.73	4.11
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>						
White Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	38	1.58	9.75	6.20	34.69	3.38
Other Areas	11	1.50	9.50	6.38	34.42	3.27
Colored Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	40	1.54	10.05	6.57	35.66	3.58
Other Areas	10	1.54	10.49	6.88	37.96	3.98